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turns into a problem
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the Diamond

Dordt College

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Issue 1

55th Avenue Café opening postponed Seniors enjoying new apartments despite minor complaints



Roommates Tyler Bork, Ryan Savery, Trent Geleynse and Derek Buteyn enjoy the space in the lobby of the new building. Photo by Kelly Cooke

Kelly Zatlin
Staff Writer

You’re going to have to wait a little longer for a smoothie.

The opening of the 55th Avenue Café has been pushed back because some of the equipment needed to run it has not yet arrived. The new café was supposed to start serving up smoothies - among other things - this week, but the grand opening will now have to wait until next week.

The café is part of the new Kuyper Apartments for seniors. They are for the first time experiencing life in the new building, which is equipped with features unseen in any other housing on campus, including include large windows, two showers, dishwashers, and sectional couches.

“I really like how it feels very modern and the living room and kitchen space is very open,” said Kyra Kats.

Dan De Graff is also enjoying his living arrangement.

“The Kuyper apartments are a major step up from any other living on campus,” he said. “Being in these luxurious apartments gives us plenty of space to do homework, socialize, and live comfortably. It almost has an off campus feel to it, which is great.”

Students are also enjoying the extra features. “I like the dishwasher and it’s really nice to have two showers,” said se-

nior Brittany Haan.

However, there are still a few things that residents wish the apartments could be equipped with.

“Because there is no carpet in the building, everything echoes, and you can hear your neighbor’s conversations. It can get very noisy,” said Haan. “Also, the storage space is not really built for six people, but overall I love living in Kuyper.”

Director of Residence Life Robert Taylor addressed one particular concern.

“It is a challenge to keep carpet looking good for as long as it lasts,” he said.

He also, however, commented on the success of the building so far.

“We really wanted it to be a place to draw students into the community area,” Taylor said. “As I was in the building last night for 55th Avenue sample event, there were people just sitting and hanging out exactly how we envisioned it. I told myself, ‘This is going to work.’”

This community area is where to find the 55th Avenue Café. The café will be run by the Dordt College Business Club (now DCBC, formerly known as FBE) as well as other Dordt Clubs that might be willing to volunteer their time.

Art Attema, professor of business education, is overseeing the café as a sponsor for DCBC.

“Student Services approached me asking if we might be willing to run the café as a club project,” said Attema. “We discussed it and decided to give it a go.”

Kimberly Hoekstra, a senior business major and member of DCBC, is one of the students who has volunteered her time to make 55th Avenue a reality. She and another Dordt student stayed in Sioux Center all summer, ordering equipment and taking care of many details put into running any business.

“Dordt gave us the privilege to run the café,” said Hoekstra. “What we carry and do has been our decision.”

55th Avenue will accept Defender Dollars as well as cash, but they will not take debit or credit. The profit raised from the coffee shop will go towards helping fund DCBC, and other clubs that participate in running 55th Avenue.

Attema also said the coffee shop is open to providing coffee for student-run groups that might want to hold their meetings in the loft above the coffee shop. “Just come to us and ask, ‘What can you do for us?’ and we will be glad to arrange something,” he said.

Taylor encourages student groups to hold meetings in the conference portion of the loft, which they can reserve through Bonnie Dekkers in Student Services.

Where’s the fire?

Lance Kooiman
Staff Writer

It’s illegal to yell “Fire!” in a crowded building if there is no fire, but unfortunately that rule doesn’t apply to the fire alarm. That piercing sound has sent many students out of their residence halls seven times already this year.

Most of the alarms came from Kuyper, with Covenant and Southview making contributions as well.

And while it may be easy to set an alarm off, finding the root of the problem is where the difficulty lies.

“We have a meeting with Engineering Design Associates (EDA) to see what can be done,” Stan Oordt, Dordt College’s Maintenance Director, said.

He hopes that the cause of the alarms in Kuyper has been fixed.

“There was a problem with water vapor from the showers setting off alarms,” Oordt commented. “To fix it, we had to adjust an air handler. We hope this will solve the vapor problem.”

According to Oordt, the alarm systems at Dordt use an advisable system, which is broken into two parts: central and apartment. The central alarm alerts the fire department and the apartment alarm alerts maintenance. Over 100 people from the fire department and maintenance are informed whenever an alarm goes off.

Dordt maintenance is working with the state fire marshal as well as the fire alarm company, Bankoe Fire Protection, as well as the engineers at EDA, in order to completely fix the problem.

“We have gone several days now without a call, which is reassuring that the problem is being worked out,” said Oordt. “We just ask for patience from the residents. We hope to have the alarms taken care of very soon.”

What’s in a name?

It’s mostly seniors that are enjoying the new building, but one underclassman who’s benefitting from it is Mary Catherine Tien, who was credited with choosing the name.

“I submitted the name Kuyper along with names of other reformers and influential people in the church, because initially Dordt was considering renaming all the of residence buildings with a theme,” Tien said. “They decided only to name the new building, and chose the name Kuyper.”

As a reward, Tien and her roommates will enjoy being placed at the top of the housing list in their next two years at Dordt, ensuring that they get first choice in housing.

Compiled by Kelly Zatlin

Dordt’s new faculty eager to make a difference



Pastor Aaron Baart speaks in chapel every Wednesday as part of his new chaplain position. *Phot by Hannah Altena*

Adrian Hielema
Staff Writer

The new semester is here, and while Dordt students attempt to settle into a comfortable routine, several new faculty members are also trying to find order amongst the chaos.

Pastor Aaron Baart, Dordt’s new chaplain, is no stranger to the campus.

An alumni himself, Baart became an integral part of worship services last year while on loan from local church Bridge of Hope. Despite having pastored at Bridge for the past six years, Baart is very confident that the transition will be relatively easy.

“The faith issues that the people at Bridge struggle with are no different than the ones students at Dordt face,” said Baart. “Only the structure is different.”

As well as fulfilling his

chaplain duties, Baart is also teaching a class of Biblical Foundations, which he admits is “something I’ve always wanted to do.”

Hailing from Canada like his colleague Baart, professor Neal De Roo is a new addition to Dordt’s philosophy department.

Having previously taught part-time at Brock University in Ontario, De Roo was contacted to fill the gap left by the departure of Dordt professor Roger Henderson. “[Provost] Erik Hoekstra just called us up out of the blue one afternoon,” De Roo said.

When he’s not pondering philosophy or the Toronto Maple Leafs’ chances of making the playoffs, De Roo spends his time at home with his wife Tanya and their three-month old son Hendrick.

“It’s been a bit of a crazy summer,” De Roo said.

With Dordt professor Jason Lief departing to work on his dissertation, professor Clinton Lowin has stepped in to teach theology during Lief’s two-year absence.

The plains of Iowa are familiar to Lowin who, with the rest of his growing family, hails from Amarillo, Texas.

An 18-year veteran of working in the ministry, Lowin looks to combine those years with his teaching experience here at Dordt.

“I’m looking forward to working with what seems to be a very responsive student body,” Lowin said.

Also joining the faculty this year are Randy Smit, an instructor of Business Administration; Tony Tuinstra, an instructor of Engineering and Construction; and Simon Du Toit, a visiting associate professor of Theatre Arts.

Planner project or problem?

Kaitlyn Horvat
Staff Writer

Dordt College’s “planner project” took a turn this year that caught many upperclassmen by surprise.

While freshman still received free planners, upperclassmen did not, and a sudden planner shortage has left many without an important time management tool.

Students who do not use planners are not troubled by the cost or the delay in getting them.

Matt Bleyenbergh said he would have gotten a planner if it had been free, but he thinks the new planner system is good and will discourage waste.

However, not all share his sentiment.

“My life is in shambles,” said Lindsay Anderson. She tried Wal-Mart and found that they were sold out of planners as well.

Now she has resorted to using a notebook, which she says is not working.

Cora Bonnema also went to Wal-Mart looking for a planner, but with no success.

“I’m upset [Dordt] didn’t buy enough,” she said.

Dordt originally began distributing planners to incoming students as a way for them to

“organize life,” said Associate Provost Bethany Schuttinga.

Students could use it as a central place to put studies, social events, work schedules and homework.

The project was so successful with the freshman that Dordt began distributing planners to everyone.

However, many students did not use their planners, so this year, Dordt decided to eliminate waste by giving planners only to freshman who are required to have them for CORE 100.

Dordt administration still wants students who use the planners to have them, so although the college buys them for \$6, they sell them to students for \$4.

Schuttinga says this is a way to reduce waste while making sure students who use planners still have access to them.

While reducing waste is a good goal, the planner shortage has left many students living scattered lives.

Like Anderson, numerous upperclassmen across campus would say this year’s planner project has become a planner problem as they wait for the next shipment to arrive.

Review:

Season Buffet: charming, or on the chopping block?



Sioux Center’s new Chinese restaurant, Season Buffet, gets three out of five stars from reviewer Brittany Haan. *Photo by Kelly Cooke*

Brittany Haan
Staff Writer

Sioux Center has expanded its dining options with the Season Buffet, a brand new Chinese buffet located next to Los Tulipanes on the south side of town.

The restaurant interior is a sad attempt at a fine dining experience with cheap chandeliers, tile flooring and bland wall decorations.

But don’t let the interior fool you; the food is exceptional!

You’ll have plenty of options to choose from including favorites like orange chicken, sushi, moo goo gai pan, szechuan shrimp and every other hunan, sesame, kung fu panda whatever you call it Chinese food.

The best part of the buffet? Choices.

Not a fan of Chinese but invited to a night on the town by a hot date? Season buffet offers a hodgepodge of American food throughout the buffet table as well. They even have an assortment of

desserts and Blue Bunny ice cream.

The buffet is \$9.50, which includes a drink.

Most buffets have poorly prepared food, but Season Buffet isn’t too bad.

I wouldn’t suggest taking your special someone here on a first date, but for a group of friends it’s a great place to dine.

My rating:



Residence halls in midst of change

Rachel Mulder
Staff Writer

Dordt College has big plans for its residence living, and giving guys the purple-carpeted floors of East Hall is only the beginning.

Dordt’s three-year plan will continually affect the community on the Dordt campus.

This year saw the formerly co-ed West and Covenant become girls-only while East Hall switched from a girls’ to a guys’ building.

The switch was made to “get everyone knowing and spending time with everyone,” said Robert Taylor, Director of Residence Life at Dordt.

But not everyone is happy with the change. “It’s dumb and I want to go back to Covenant,” said sophomore Matt Bonnema.

Other students miss the old setup but are adjusting. “I like the dorm changes, but I miss the guys,” said Liesl Scholten, RA in West Hall. Her roommate, Becki Dokter, agreed, “I even miss their obnoxious yelling!”

Dordt is also planning to change the look of the lobbies in the residence halls.

One step in that process is complete, the lobbies in North and East Hall have been trans-



Photo by Luke Schut

formed from lounges into study rooms. According to Dordt’s research, studying in natural light is better.

Basements in the residence halls don’t provide students with natural light and a lot of studying had previously taken place there. Dordt hopes to renovate the basements into the rec areas for North and East Halls.

East Campus may also be under renovation soon, but much of what is happening now is behind-the-scenes work.

Storm sewers are to be put around the buildings, but that process has slowed just a bit because of all the rain that fell this summer.

East Campus A and B were

shut down on purpose and tearing them down is currently not in the plan.

“It would be expensive to tear [those buildings] down,” said Robert Taylor, “[and] the Kuyper Apartments brought more beds, so it wasn’t necessary to keep them running.”

When future renovations take place on two of the East Campus buildings, the currently empty buildings will house students instead.

But nothing is definite yet.

“Plans are not finalized; there will always be ongoing changes, but we will address quite a bit over the next two summers,” said Robert Taylor, “we have to be responsible.”

Broadway show at Dordt September 17

“A Salute to Broadway” is the theme of a pops concert being presented by the Dordt College band and orchestra on Friday, Sept. 17, at 7 p.m. in the B.J. Haan Auditorium.

The Broadway-based theme will be carried out in both the costumes and music of performers, under the direction of Bradley Miedema.

MCs for the evening will be Matt Wiersma, a junior from Fort Collins, CO, and Jon Trueblood, a senior from St Louis, MO.

Music from award-winning musicals like Oklahoma!, The Music Man, Fiddler on the Roof, West Side Story, Cats, Grease!, Les Misérables, Rent, Chicago, Wicked,

Beauty and the Beast, and Hairspray will be presented.

This free and entertaining performance is sponsored by the Dordt College Music Department.

(Submitted by Jane Ver Steeg)



Director Bradley Miedema is questioned by MCs Lee Radde and Jon Trueblood at last year’s pops concert. Costumes and humor are part of the fun at this musical event.

Photo contributed

Student Symposium Update

The school year is just getting underway, and that means Student Symposium is getting up and running. This year mixes returning members and new faces into group that is sure to do some good for the student body. It is my pleasure to introduce the lineup to this hard-hitting team.

First, meet the fearless leaders of Symposium: Kurt Franje and Alex Henderson. Franje is an agriculture major who wants to use his leadership role in Symposium to create a deeper Christian community at Dordt. Henderson is a business administration finance major. “I figure if I am not a part of the solution, I might as well be the problem. I want to make things happen!” he said. Franje loves to be out and enjoying creation while Henderson would rather be taking a nap because he cannot go a whole day without one.

Jason Kornelis is majoring in theatre and representing the humanities department in this year’s symposium. He wants the humanities department to have a strong voice on campus. Something you might not know about Kornelis is that he has a brain condition called synesthesia. This means that his senses overlap; he most frequently associates people with colors.

Next, we have Abbie Ponstein, a youth ministries major. She is a part of Symposium because she enjoys being involved on campus. She also enjoys spending time with her roommates and drinking coffee.

Bjorn Vaagensmith is studying to be an electrical engineering. He wants to be a voice for the students and build community at Dordt. Vaagensmith is also the president of the wrestling club - he is always ready for a challenge and says, ‘BRING IT’ to anyone that wants to challenge him.

Alex Brabon is another member of the group and he is a elementary education major. He joined Symposium because he wants to share an opinion on ‘Dordt debacles.’ When he isn’t formulating opinions, he might be found playing football or appreciating a good game of ice hockey.

Next in the squad is named Sam Yang. Sam is an electrical engineering major who became the graphic designer for Symposium because of his love for art and prompting from a few seniors last year. Yang lived for nine years in Mexico and Korea before moving to the United States two years ago.

Lastly, we have Kristin Janssen and Nathan Rider. Janssen is secondary education/English major who enjoys being a part of symposium because of the ‘behind the scenes’ look it gives her. Rider is an agricultural missions major who wants to be a voice for the present and future students of the natural science department he represents.

Well, that concludes the members of this years’ symposium. You may have realized at this point that these individuals are top notch and ready to represent you. If you haven’t realized this then rest assured that Symposium will be working its hardest to fulfill the needs of the students.

Compiled by Steve Olson, Symposium’s Officer of the Press



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Features

Where did you come from, where did you go?

The admissions office is celebrating the fifth largest enrollment in Dordt's history. The freshman class brought in 370 new students. "We've had bigger numbers than that before," said Director of Admission Quentin Van Essen, "But never this many transfer students." There were 73 total transfer and returning students, compared to the usual 35-40. Here are the stories of some of those students.

Ashlee Stallinga, Head Editor



Derek De Jong, Ellie Dykstra, Tony Jansma and Jonathan Van Dyke are 2008 graduates of Manhattan Christian High School who transferred to Dordt this year. Photo by Ashlee Stallinga

A Snap Decision

The most recent addition to the transfer list is **Ellie Dykstra**. Graduating from Manhattan Christian High School in Churchill, Mont., in 2008, she saw plenty of students from the classes above her choose Dordt. However, only two students from her class – Christine Alberda and Kyle Heidema – chose to make the trip down to Northwest Iowa. The rest teased them for their choice. "We called [Dordt] 'The Dutch Capital of the World,'" Dykstra said. However, three men from that class of 2008 had to eat their words. Derek De Jong, Tony Jansma, and Jonathan VanDyke all decided to transfer to Dordt. Still, Dykstra held out, even though her sister Katie, who is a freshman this year, decided Dordt was the college for her. Dykstra planned to join her family in the trip to drop her sister off, but she had no interest in attending herself. She majored in graphic arts at Montana

State University in Bozeman, a highly competitive program. Over the last year, it had been cut from 80 students to 30, and she had survived the final cut. "When I came [to Dordt], I packed only my rollerblades, makeup, and three outfits, just to give me one more reason I wasn't going to stay," Dykstra said. But then she met up with Mark Eekhoff—a fellow graduate of Manhattan Christian High School, a Dordt alum who majored in graphic design, and now an admission counselor. Eekhoff showed Dykstra around the graphic arts department. "I was really drawn by the nice facilities, and also the chance to work with real businesses and clients. At MSU it's all hypothetical." After the tour, Dykstra caved. "Okay—I'll try it," she said. Within five hours, she was fully admitted and registered... then panic set in. "I needed at least one night to think about it," she said. "That night I prayed, and realized that

God had opened so many doors for me already." So she decided to go for it. Her decision was cemented when she realized that one room open in Southview was where Christine Alberda lived. "After I said yes, things kept working out," Dykstra said. Because she had packed so little, she went to WalMart for food and bedding. The rest of her things were brought down by Tony Jansma. But Dykstra's first week was a little different than expected. "I was in Mark's office, worried that it was a stupid choice—the program at MSU was so good," she said. Her apprehension didn't last too long. Though some things don't compare to what she had at Montana State University, she found plenty of things that she enjoys more at Dordt. "It's nice to have God back in classes," she said. "I like my roommates, and really everything about it here...it's a great college."

Derek DeJong

DeJong is another transfer from Montana State University in Bozeman who can't believe he and his classmates ended up at Dordt after all the jokes they made about it. "Now we're all here...somehow," he said. He's here because his time at Montana State University wasn't going exactly as he planned. "I played football there, but it didn't work out like I hoped," he said. "You don't really get to play until your junior or senior year. And I wanted to do track, too." He joined both teams at Dordt, and is majoring in engineering. But while his football skills were transferrable, many of his credits were not. "I'm kinda mad about the stuff that didn't transfer," he said. "I have three years left and a lot of a Core to take." But overall, the transfer is going well. "Besides all the Twins and Vikings fans, it's alright here," he said.

Tony Jansma

Like Dykstra and DeJong, Jansma transferred from Montana State University in Bozeman. "I wanted something smaller where you can know everybody," he said. "At MSU, you can go a whole day without seeing anyone you know." With his change in school came a change in major as well. He was in business finance at Montana State University, and now he has switched to communication. "It's going pretty good so far," he said. "Everyone is a lot closer here."

Jonathan Van Dyke

Van Dyke transferred from Whitworth University in Spokane, Wash., as a health science major. "It was getting more and more expensive there, and I wasn't making the connections that I wanted to," he said. "I already knew people here." Joining the HPER program, VanDyke makes use of the Rec Center both in and out of classes. "My friends at Whitworth didn't do much," he said. "Here, we're outside playing campus golf a lot, and we go to the Rec for basketball and racquetball. It's been fun."

A Chance Meeting

Before June, **Taylor Wyatt** had never heard of Dordt. From Dallas, Ore., Wyatt attended Corban University in Salem, Ore. for his first three years of college. "My mom's sister is from Sheldon, and I had heard of Northwestern, but never Dordt," he said. This summer, Wyatt went to play baseball in Nicaragua as part of the mission program Athletes in Action. During the training in Dallas, Tex., he met Morgan Halpert.In training camp in Dallas, TX, their host families were neighbors. When getting to know each other, the guys on the trip talked about what schools they attended. "Morgan was one of very few that actually liked his college," Wyatt said. Wyatt, however, did not fall into that category.



Taylor Wyatt and Morgan Halpert with children in Nicaragua. Photo courtesy of Taylor Wyatt

"I was very frustrated with where I was at," Wyatt said. "The leaders of the program suggested I look into transferring, so for a week in the trip, Morgan and another guy started doing some mock recruiting for their schools; they even went as far as hosting press

conferences." When he got back to Oregon, he talked to his parents, went to the website, and called baseball coach Jeff Schouten. "After talking to Coach, I knew I wanted to come here," he said. "My only regret is not coming here sooner."

An Unexpected Circumstance

After **Jonny Fibrantz** spent one year at Dana College, he knew he didn't want to go back. Turns out he didn't have a choice. "There were rumors that they were having financial problems," Fibrantz said. "They were bought out by a company in Chicago, who told us not to leave, because [the college] would get better. We asked them questions, but they didn't really have any answers. I had no intentions of staying." In mid-July, Dana closed, leaving Fibrantz without a school and little time to find one. "I found out through Facebook, actually," Fibrantz said. "My friends were either celebrating, or they were very

angry." One of those students who was upset was Fibrantz's sister, who was about to start her senior year at Dana. With Dana no longer an option, returning students had to look other places. Fibrantz's sister chose Concordia, and many others chose Midland Lutheran, which offered automatic transfer of all credits from Dana. Fibrantz ended up here, after considering 10 different schools through the summer. "My final decision came down to Dordt or Northwestern," he said. After he saw Dordt, the decision was made. "I didn't even look at Northwestern," he said. Fibrantz is now a student at Dordt College and is majoring in Environmental Studies.

Opinion

Forming Defenders: Outside the bubble



Chelsey Munneke
Columnist

Maybe you aren't from here...or a place like here.

Maybe you didn't grow up Reformed, or even Christian for that matter.

Maybe you weren't raised on Christian education, and the term "worldview" is foreign to you.

But, maybe you were. And maybe this "bubble" you find yourself in is the next comfortable step in your comfortable life.

It was for me.

Until I was removed, challenged, questioned, and tested – unprotected, I was on the spot failing miserably in an attempt to defend my own faith.

Why?

Because I wasn't prepared to take my faith into a world outside of what I knew. I hadn't taken the time to make my faith my own and really discover what my faith meant to me.

As young Christians, are we adequately prepared to exemplify and prove a faith we claim to be true? Do we really know what we believe and why? Or do we believe out of comfort and the knowledge we hold to, which is from grandma's bedtime Bible stories and a brief remnant of high school catechism (Biblical doctrine classes), blurred by drawn out sermons and post-dinner devotions?

Why do *you* believe what you do? What would you say to someone that told you your faith was outdated and childish?

Have you recently been in a situation where you had to stand up for your faith? Tell us...we are a community, a body of Christ, to learn from one another.

This column is here to make you think and to start conversations on our online blog that can lead to conversations with roommates, friends, professors, and so on.

Go to www.thedordtdiamond.tumblr.com to tell us your story.

The anti-moderate: Forgotten in the family, pt. 1

When I was six, it dawned on me just how different my sister was from the rest of us.

Until then, she was just my preferred playmate. But on my first day home from kindergarten, I tried to teach her what I'd learned.

She couldn't say it back to me.

That didn't really bother me. After all, some other kids at school had trouble with it too.

Her inability proved to be chronic. I learned to read: she couldn't. I learned to add, subtract, multiply, divide: she couldn't.

I began to connect other things to her inability—that she was the only grown-up who could play so unself-consciously with a little kid like me, that she picked her nose in public, that she pronounced "th" like "f."

Ultimately I connected her inability with what I had been told by my parents all along.

"Your sister Cathy," they had told me, "is mentally handicapped." But the reality of it took many years for me to understand.

Even now, it doesn't mean to me what it does to my parents. For them Cathy is very different because she wasn't what they expected; for me,



Robert Minto
Columnist

she's what I've always had.

Once I found my mother crying. I asked her why.

She told me she was worried that Cathy would go to hell. It was just a few days after I had professed faith. She knew that Cathy would never have the ability to stand in front of a congregation and say what I had said, to indicate intellectual assent

and reasoned faith.

In fact, Cathy would never have the capacity to grasp the meaning of the "simple" sentences religious people use, involving complicated ideas like sin, incarnation, redemption, sanctification.

We take them for granted. Cathy can't take them at all.

How does, let us say, classic Dordt theology respond to my mother's concern? Probably by saying God is sovereign in grace; that he can save anybody he wants.

Do we really believe that? Taking Cathy as a test case, do we really believe that someone who never thinks or says certain things can "be a Christian"?

If they can, how does that change our hard-edged perspectives on "the unrepentant"?

A whole host of issues, from homosexuality to Islam, come up for review. We are firm, even militant regarding them. The lisping figure of my older sister stares us down.

Too much, too little: In my humble opinion

So, I'm a latecomer to this fine paper, whipping up my first opinion column in my fifth year at Dordt.

As a "super-senior," I ought to have five years of collected know-how coming out of my ears. An opinion column should be a breeze, should it not?

But I've come to discover that some of the most brilliant students on campus are the first to admit how little they know by the end of their four—or five—years at Dordt.

That's not meant to reflect poorly on the school at all.

Rather, these friends are amongst the wisest people I know. They understand that the more one learns, the more one realizes how much there's left to learn.

Confucius was far from Dordt's ideal neo-Calvinist, but he struck gold when he said that "real knowledge is to know the extent of one's ignorance."

Really, good education ought to lead to a certain de-

gree of acquired ignorance. Even good Calvinists can give a nod to the Chinaman—we believe our intellects are



Kenny Gradert
Columnist

in shoddy shape, right?

And that's why my very first opinion column is on opinions.

Of course it's good to have opinions. Take a stand! Listen to both sides carefully. Wrestle with important issues. All of the above.

But as always, the golden

mean rules. You can have too much of an opinion as quickly as you can have too little of one.

We all know hotheads who have an infallible theory on everything—myself being one of those infallible hotheads at times, no doubt.

It's wise to remember Confucius in the heat of an argument. More important than the Chinese philosopher, though, is the call to humility that our scriptures preach endlessly.

Couldn't Christ's command to love our enemies make for an instance of humility in a heated debate as well?

Maybe I'm wrong.

Throughout the semester I'll try and weigh out some opinions, and I bet you'll form (or reform) a few of your own as well.

But in the process, we'd all do well to remember that golden nugget named "humility."

my feminist LABEL

Was she happy?

By Ally Karsyn
Columnist

After seeing the infamous Mona Lisa painting hanging in the Louvre museum, I bought the film *Mona Lisa Smile*. The last time I watched it was probably when it came out in 2003.

Since then, I converted to feminism (without any man-hating or bra-burning), which gave me a new perspective on this film about Katherine Watson (Julia Roberts), an art professor who went to teach at Wellesley, a conservative women's college, in 1953.

Ms. Watson wanted the her students to see the potential they had to be something more than John's wife or Timmy's mother.

The '50s marked a transitional time for women in society. We've come a long way since then as gender roles have been redefined and women have made considerable gains in government, education and occupation, along with sexual liberation.

Women have more choices and more freedom than ever before. But are we happy? I'd say we're still transitioning; pop culture suggests we're still asking.

In Julia Roberts' latest film *Eat Pray Love*, she plays the part of Liz Gilbert, a woman who goes to Italy, India and Indonesia in "search of everything."

Not many of us can shirk our responsibilities and leave the country, let alone afford it. But the inescapable feeling of being lost, misdirected and confused might be enough to change your mind.

I didn't go on a yearlong journey trying to connect body, mind and soul.

I studied abroad in London, where I ate, drank and breathed in all the British culture there was to be had in eight weeks of summer. I worked at my dream job and made friends and memories I will never forget.

But something was missing. *Je ne sais quoi*.

I came to realize certain people and places may help you on your road to self-discovery, but ultimately, we all have to make peace with our choices. Only then can we hope to find happiness and fulfillment.

Betty Friedan said it best in *The Feminine Mystique*, "In the end, a woman, [like] a man, has the power to choose, and to make her own heaven or hell."

Consider that before you book a trip to Bali; but it's your choice if you want to go.

Sports

Cannon creates excitement



Soccer plays a game against Morningside Wednesday. The cannon was missing due to weather. Photo by Luke Schut

Jordan Harmelink
Staff Writer

The Canons of Dordt now have a whole new meaning. Every time the football team scores a touchdown or the men’s and women’s soccer teams score a goal, a sound other than clapping and cheering will be heard: the boom of a cannon. The idea originated with football coach Brant Steffey. “At a small college like this, it can be hard to create energy and excitement at times,” Steffey said. He thought that a cannon might help change that. Steffey approached Athletic Director Glenn Bouma about purchasing the cannon in the spring. He said that it was important to find a cannon that was “affordable and user friendly.” They found one cannon online at cannon-mania.com. According to the website, “Cannon-Mania offers small

cannons used for celebration & fun purposes, not for destruction.” They offer over 150 different models, in styles that range from antique to pirate to decorative. The cannon that is now a part of Dordt’s sporting events is small, weighing 125 pounds, and it has wheels for easy transportation. Unfortunately, in games like yesterday’s soccer matches against Morningside when the sky is threatening rain, the cannon stays inside. Therefore, the goals scored by Rindy De Nooy and Noelle Kreykes went without cannon fire. (At the time the paper went to press, the men’s soccer game was not yet finished.) Any students with an interest cleaning, maintaining, and keeping this new cannon safe, can contact either Steffey or Bouma.

“At a small college like this, it can be hard to create energy and excitement at times.” -Football Coach Brant Steffy

Golf goes feminine

Kelly Zatlin
Staff Writer

This fall, Dordt College has introduced women’s golf to the sports program for the first time. Dordt wanted to start a women’s golf program, so they approached Matthew Nice, director of golf at The Ridge Golf Club in Sioux Center, Iowa. He gladly took on the project of coaching, helping Dordt establish a women’s golf team. A total of seven women have joined the team, ranging in age from freshmen to juniors. “A few of the freshmen came to Dordt, excited about being able to be a part of the women’s golf team,” said Nice. “The older girls ex-

pressed that they were interested in playing on a golf team as well.” Kayla Zwart is glad to be a part of the team. “It takes a lot of work and time, but it is a lot of fun.” The girls also get the luxury of being able to practice several times a week at The Ridge Golf Course. “I love the facility. It’s open which makes it great to practice on, and the staff is very helpful,” said Jennifer Van Der Hoek. As a part of GPAC, five women will be competing in several qualifiers throughout the season to determine who goes to nationals in the spring. “We have challenges ahead of us, but I am looking forward to seeing these girls improve and give it their best,” said Nice.

Optimism still alive, despite losses for football

Adam McDonald
Staff Writer

Dordt College played Dakota Wesleyan and Doane for the first two football games of the season. “I was really pleased with a lot of things,” said head football coach John Heavner when asked about the game against Dakota Wesleyan. “As I said to our players after the game, ‘The reason things got a little bit out of hand was because of mistakes we made that we can correct.’” Despite the 7-42 loss against Wesleyan and a 10-36 loss against Doane, Heavner hasn’t lost hope for the remainder of the season. “There is plenty to work on,” said Heavner, “You never want to lose but there are enough positives out of there for our team.” During the Wesleyan game, the Defender’s defense kept the Tigers from scoring

during the first quarter. Yet despite their efforts, the Tigers broke through and scored within the first minute of the second. “I feel really bad for the defense. They were put in a terrible position all night,” said Heavner. “We had some bad special teams’ plays that put them in bad positions. I was very pleased with the way the defense played, with the exception that I felt like we need to tackle better and take off blocks better in the secondary.” The following weekend, the Defenders had their first away game against Doane. “We pretty much played the worst game ever on defense that we have ever played,” said sophomore and starting defensive safety, Jon Luetchens. “We missed a lot of assignments and tackles. There is a lot to work on defensively.” Despite lower scores at

the end of each game, the Defenders are improving. During both games, touchdowns were scored by Josh VanKempen and Sam DuMez. With seven points scored in the first game and ten in the second, the Defenders are improving their game one step at a time. Even with the first two games as losses, there is a sense of hope and optimism amongst the players, coaches and students for the remainder of the season. “In the beginning, I was really surprised. I thought we were just going to dominate the whole game but in the end, I think we did all right,” said sophomore Brandon Van Der Puy. “Obviously the score doesn’t appear that way, but I still had fun.” The next Dordt College home football game will be on September 18 against Hastings.

Ask an Athlete

Penelope Anderson
Staff Writer

My search for a lacrosse player seemed hopeless when suddenly I spotted a guy bouncing a small rubber ball against East Campus ‘E’ with a lacrosse stick. Score! I run over and said, “Hey, wouldn’t you love to be interviewed for the Diamond?” Of course he would, so we take a seat in the canyon. Jordan Harmelink is a lacrosse player and also a junior Communications major with a minor in Journalism. Harmelink is from Sioux Center.



Name: Jordan Harmelink
Sport: Lacrosse
Class: Junior

How long have you been playing lacrosse?
All three years here at Dordt.
What got you into the sport?
My older brother played for Dordt, and I became interested and decided to carry on the tradition. I play goalie and he was a D-Pole.

D-pole?
D-pole is a defense position

and they carry a smaller stick. The goalie gets to use a larger stick.
Is it a big time commitment?
Not really, we practice about 4 hours a week. We travel to Omaha quite a bit for games, but for the most part it isn’t as intense as other sports with daily training and time commitments.

Do you travel often during the season?
Not often. We travel to Omaha, Minnesota, and Chicago. There are about 10-12 games a season, four of which will be home games. Travelling is the best part though. Getting to know the other guys while riding the bus to the next game is always a good time.

Do you have a pre-game “power food”?
I actually try not to eat too much before a game because of the nerves you know, but I

do like a little trail mix and definitely Gatorade.
Do you wear much protective gear?
No, just the shoulder pads. You pretty much just use your shoulders to run into opponents.

Have you had any injuries?
I busted my shoulder up running into a teammate during practice and he busted his shoulder that time too. Oh and I broke my thumb during a game too. A ball squished it while I was defending. I can’t bend it anymore, but it doesn’t affect my gaming. I can still play Xbox!

To order the latest lacrosse t-shirt, see Harmelink or one of the other lacrosse players before October 1.

A ripe harvest for Prairie Grass Films

Digital Media and God's work in India

Chelsey Munneke
Staff Writer

Recently, Prairie Grass Productions - Dordt's own production company headed by Professor Mark Volkers - was asked by Mission India and Sonlight, a Christian curriculum company, to help put together a promotional video series on India.

Professor Volk-
ers and digital media
student Dale Vande
Griend spent 12 days
in India this summer
following the host
of the series a young
Maryland pastor
named Chris, as he ex-
plored India and what
God is doing there.

From that footage they created 10 episodes that will begin airing Tuesday, October 5, at www.mypassporttoindia.com. The trailer is available right now. The videos are a way to learn more about the real India in a new “click, watch, and learn” sort of way.

Digital media student Dan Kauten joined Volkers and Vande Griend in six weeks of editing. They were not only able to film and edit the series, but they are now able to support Mission India in telling the world about a way to reach the hundreds of millions of people in India.

“The harvest is plentiful and ripe in India,” Professor Volkers said during our interview. “What a privilege to use the power of media for such a great cause.”

Vande Griend is continuing

his digital media study in Los Angeles this semester as part of Best Semester's off-campus program at the Los Angeles Film Studies Center.



Dale VandeGriend went with Professor Mark Volkers to India this summer to work on a series of videos. VandeGriend is a digital media student spending this semester in the Los Angeles Film Studies Program. *Photo courtesy of Kelly Cooke.*

Movie Review:

Harry Brown

Adam McDonald
Staff Writer

Read this in Morgan Freeman's voice. "In a world overrun by merciless drug lords, inept police forces and uncontrollable greed, Harry Brown (Caine) and the citizens of South London are in a constant state of fear."

Now you've got the basic idea of Michael Caine's unknown 2008 movie *Harry Brown*. But if you think it sounds exciting just because of Mr. Freeman's excellent voiceover, think again. There's a reason you've never heard of this movie.

The plot is about what you'd expect in an action movie. Brown is a cop on the tough streets of South London. Pushed to the breaking point, and realizing the police are both outgunned and outnumbered, Brown takes the law into his own hands.

In order to gain the drug lords' trust, Brown masquerades as a drug dealer, infiltrates a high profile marijuana dealership, and murders two high level dealer and torches their corpses, their home and their money, but not before comically lecturing the dealers with a typical, old man style.

Even with that action, the movie's pace is slow. Michael

Caine's performance is perfect, but the supporting casts does little supporting.

If the movie had to survive on anything but Caine's performance, it certainly would not be the special effects. It looked like Hollywood ran out of fake blood, so the director handed each actor a packet of ketchup and said "Squeeze this." Typically, the blood would splatter before the actors were shot or stabbed.

The script needed work, too. The language surpassed foul. In one scene the F-word was used twenty times by one man. Not to mention other words too explicit to publicize.

The plot itself takes about an hour to unfold. By the time Caine actually kills someone, the movie is almost halfway over.

Despite Caine's outstanding history in the field of acting, you can't help but wonder what convinced him to take this role. If you enjoy the grandfatherly Michael Caine in the Batman movies or *Secondhand Lions*, don't see this movie.

My rating:



A Prodigal Traveler comes to Dordt

Meghan Aardsma
Staff Writer

In 1668, artist Rembrandt van Rijn painted “The Return of the Prodigal.” Now, in 2010, various works of art based on his painting stand witness to the story of forgiveness and humility in Dordt College’s very own art gallery.

Thanks to Larry and Mary Gerbens who own the traveling art collection, "The Father & His Two Sons: The Art of Forgiveness," the students of Dordt and the general public can see the collection for themselves.

“Amazing,” says Marla Homeyer, a woman visiting the gallery. “It’s my second time here.”

The collection contains various works of different artistic styles and mediums created by artists of various races and creeds telling the story in classical settings or with a modern twist. The pieces include watercolor, oil paints, prints, sculpture and a rare original Rembrandt etching.

"It's a great art history les-

son just to go to the gallery and look at the collection," says David Versluis, art professor at Dordt.

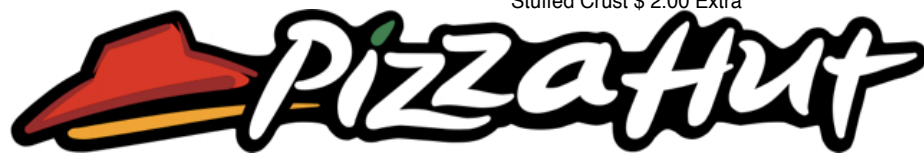
The display had previously been at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, where Versluis saw it before bringing it to Dordt.

The collection was put together by the Gerbens through a combination of both purchased and commissioned works. During a tour of the gallery, Larry Gerbens expressed how he wanted to collect art for some time but could never decide on a central theme. Then in the 1990's he received a book by Henri Nouwen, "The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming." Now he had his theme and began collecting.

The Father & His Two Sons collection will be on display until October 1. For tour information contact David Versluis. Books and CDs containing images and statements from both the artists and collector are available for purchase at the Dordt bookstore.

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Amusements

Comic Mishaps by Meghan Aardsma



Calvinist Limericks by Robert Minto

Part 1: *A brief introduction to the bigwigs of Calvinism for the ignorant and uneducated, presented here in simple and amusing verse as to facilitate understanding amongst the unwashed masses.*

There once was a man from Geneva
Who’s become quite a bit of a Diva
One in whom—to fit in—
Or we’ll count it a sin—
You must be or become a believer.

His sidekick, years later, named Kuyper
Was fatter and not such a griper
(‘Bout Catholics at least
To whom C. was a beast).
For him, grace was considerably ripier.

These lines will build up with good bricks
A compendium of concepts from these pricks.
In the Diamond you’ll find
Every week, to unwind,
A new handful of Calvinist limericks.

The man who brought you Over-Under decided another year of that column would be overrated. Therefore - all the way from Hollywood - Dave De Wit presents his 2010-2011 column: Versus. Each issue, he will compare a Hollywood actor - one he may have seen on the street, but probably not - to a historical figure, using five categories: Fame, Brains, Strengths, Weaknesses, and Sex Appeal.



Versus

Dave De Wit
Columnist

Hollywood VS. History Round 1:
TOM HANKS vs. THOMAS JEFFERSON

Fame
HANKS: Out of 300 million people in the US, Hanks was twice chosen as winner of the Oscar for Best Actor.
JEFFERSON: Out of 2.5 million people in the US, Jefferson wrote of the Declaration of Independence once.
Advantage: HANKS

Brains
HANKS: Came up with the movie That Thing You Do!.
JEFFERSON: Came up with freedom.
Adavantage: JEFFERSON

Strengths
HANKS: Very strong core. The guy can do like 7,000 sit-ups in one sitting...and upping (you know what I mean).
JEFFERSON: Famous for his strong self-esteem. In other words, he was not very physically strong. I could easily take him down in a fight, but he wouldn’t feel inadequate or shameful about it.
Advantage: HANKS

Weaknesses
HANKS: One scene in Forrest Gump was especially weak for Hanks. The acting was fine, but after shooting the scene, he tripped over a curb and sprained his ankle. So ankles and curbs are his weaknesses.
JEFFERSON: He said “um” a lot and played with his wig too much. Also, he was terrible at exploring vast areas of land, which explains the whole Lewis & Clark thing.
Advantage: HANKS

Sex Appeal
HANKS: Hanks looked his absolute best while playing the role of Woody in Toy Story. He had no skin blemishes and not a hair was out of place. Magnificent.
JEFFERSON: He was handsome fella. Have you ever seen his chiseled good looks? If you haven’t, then visit Mt. Rushmore.
Advantage: JEFFERSON

HANKS WINS 3-2

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